

BUSSELTON WATER BOARD (SUPPLY OF WATER TO DUNSBOROUGH) BILL 2009

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Dr G.G. Jacobs (Minister for Water)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

Second Reading

DR G.G. JACOBS (Eyre — Minister for Water) [12.58 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this bill is to extend the operation of the Water Boards Act 1904 to enable the Busselton Water Board to enter into a water supply agreement with the Water Corporation for the supply of water to Dunsborough and surrounding areas. Water supply in the Dunsborough area is operated by the Water Corporation and is now approaching peak capacity during summer months. One option to secure the Dunsborough area's water supply into the future is for the corporation to purchase water from the Busselton Water Board. In this way the Water Corporation can meet the growing demand for water in the Dunsborough area at a lower cost by deferring upgrades to the water supply scheme. Avoidable costs as a result of this arrangement amount to about \$9 million.

Under the proposed arrangement, the Busselton Water Board and the Water Corporation will enter into a water supply agreement giving the corporation an option to purchase up to 23 megalitres a day to supply the Dunsborough area for a period of up to 65 years, depending on demand. At present, Busselton Water Board does not have authority under the Water Boards Act 1904 to enter into water supply agreements outside its water area. Accordingly, this bill extends the operation of the Water Boards Act 1904 to allow Busselton Water Board to supply water to the Water Corporation for the Dunsborough area as if it were part of the normal business of the board and the board's operations for the purposes of the Water Boards Act 1904.

This extension of the Water Boards Act 1904 is limited in scope and applies strictly to the supply of water to the Dunsborough area. It is intended that the Water Boards Act 1904 will be repealed and replaced with new water services legislation to be introduced into Parliament in the near future as part of a major reform of Western Australia's water legislation. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman**.